536

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

STRACZYNSKI

GARNEY

SO WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, THAT I'M A LITTLE LIGHT IN MY LOAFERS?
NO, I'M JUST SAYING THAT, YOU KNOW, GUYS-- GUYS--DON'T GET ALL MISTED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF "WICKED" UNLESS, Y'KNOW, IT'S ABOUT THE PRICE OF THE TICKETS.
AND I'M SAYING YOU GOT NO HEART.
I MEAN, YOU GOT THE WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST--
WEST.
--WEST, RIDIN' THAT BROOM FOR THE FIRST TIME, TALKING ABOUT DEFYING GRAVITY, AND IT'S A METAPHOR--
OHJEEZ, METAPHORS NOW.
--A METAPHOR FOR HER RISIN' ABOVE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF HER. THESE GUYS ARE LIKE GRAVITY, AND SHE'S GONNA RISE ABOVE 'EM, SHE'S NOT GONNA LET THEM BRING HER DOWN, SEE?
SEEIN' HER UP THERE IN THE SKY LIKE THAT, FLYIN' ALONE LIKE WE'RE ALONE, IT JUST GETS YOU, YOU KNOW? DEEP INSIDE.
LOOK PAL, ALL I KNOW IS, IF IT COMES DOWN TO A FIGHT BETWEEN GOOD INTENTIONS AND GRAVITY, GRAVITY ALWAYS WINS. AM I RIGHT, RICHIE?
RICHIE? WHAT'RE YOU--
--OHCRAP--

THE WAR AT HOME

PART 5 OF 6

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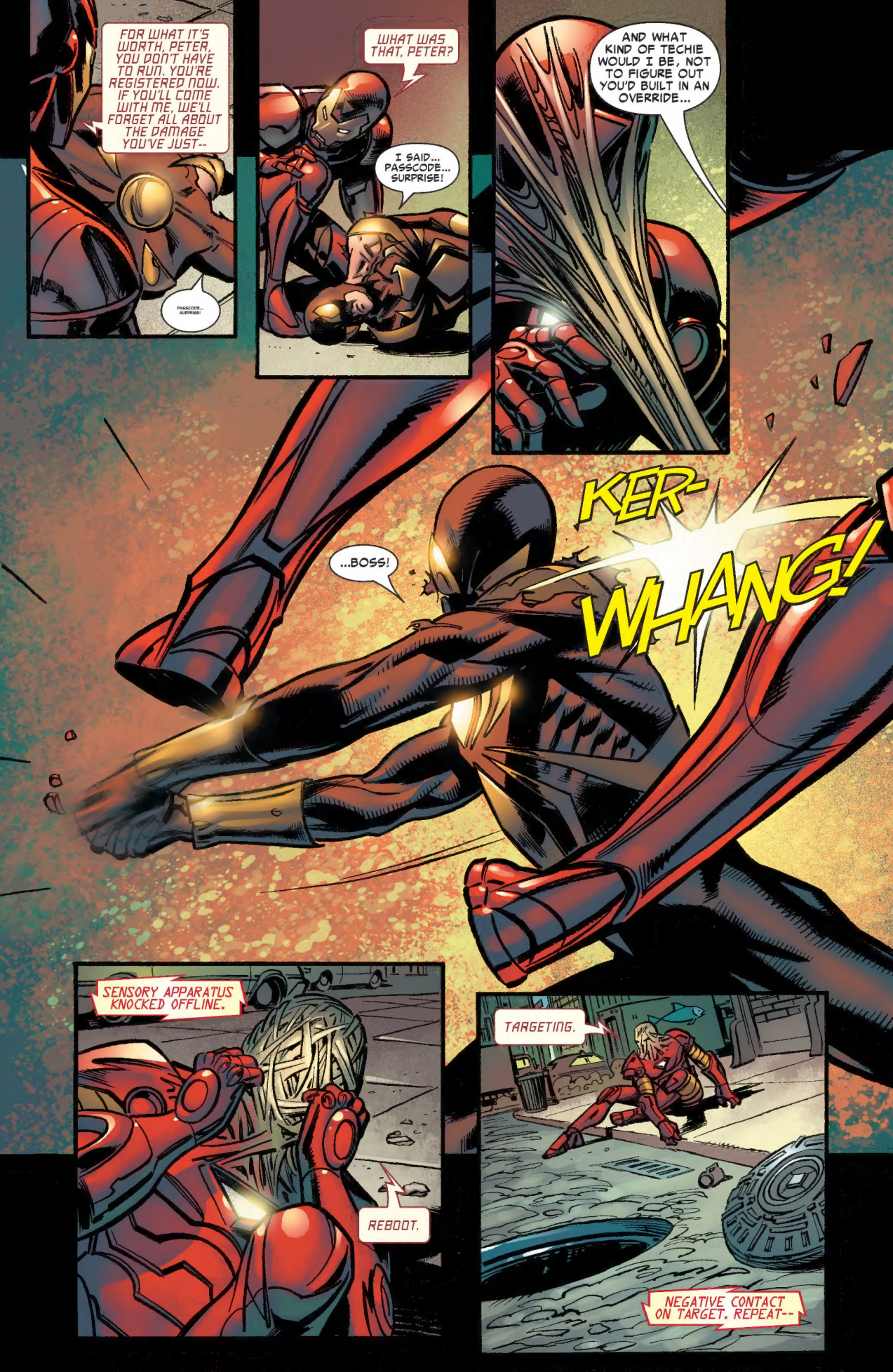
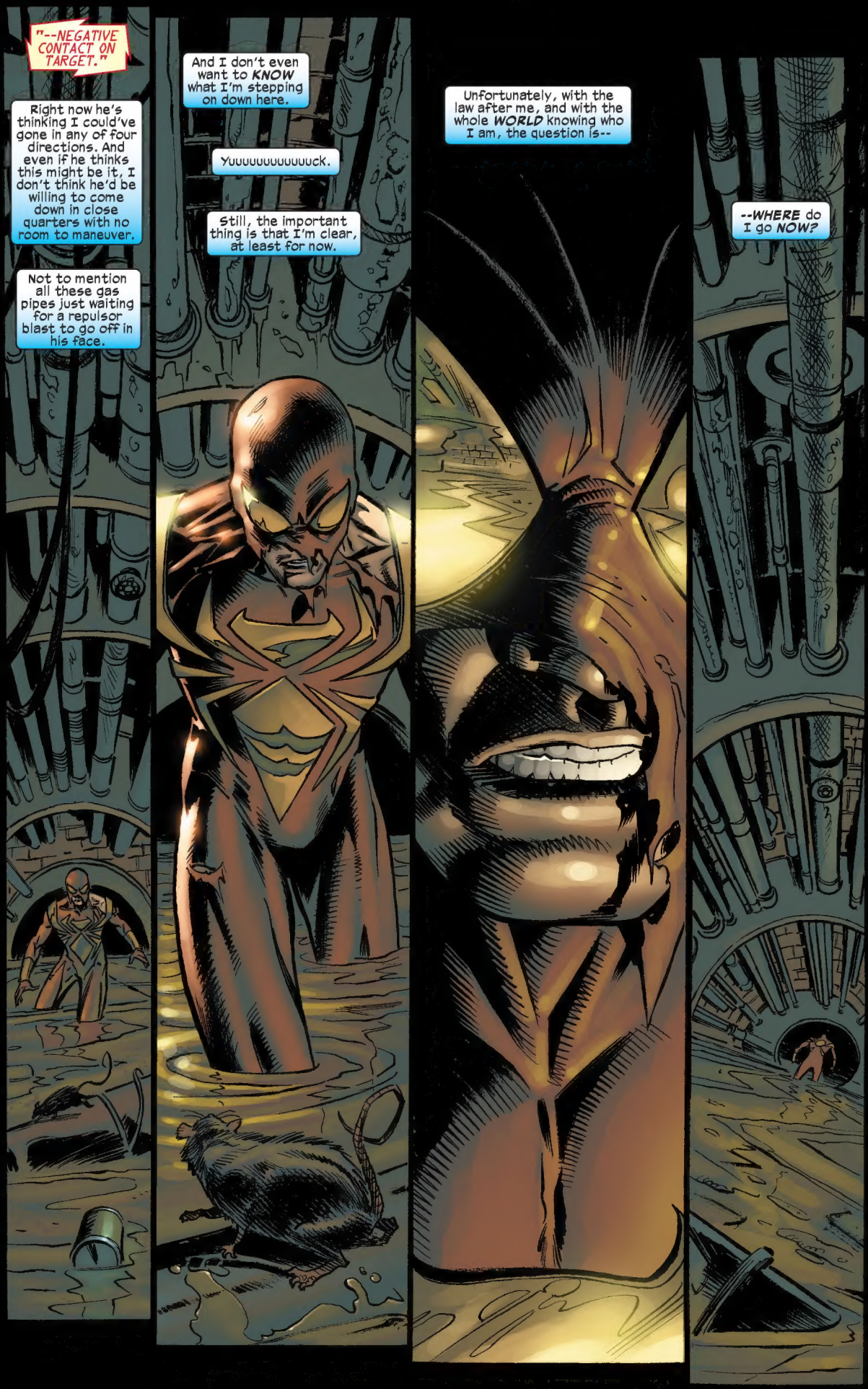
I TRUSTED YOU, PETER! I TOOK YOU UNDER MY WING! IS THIS HOW YOU REPAY ME?
NO...
KLANNG!
...THIS IS!

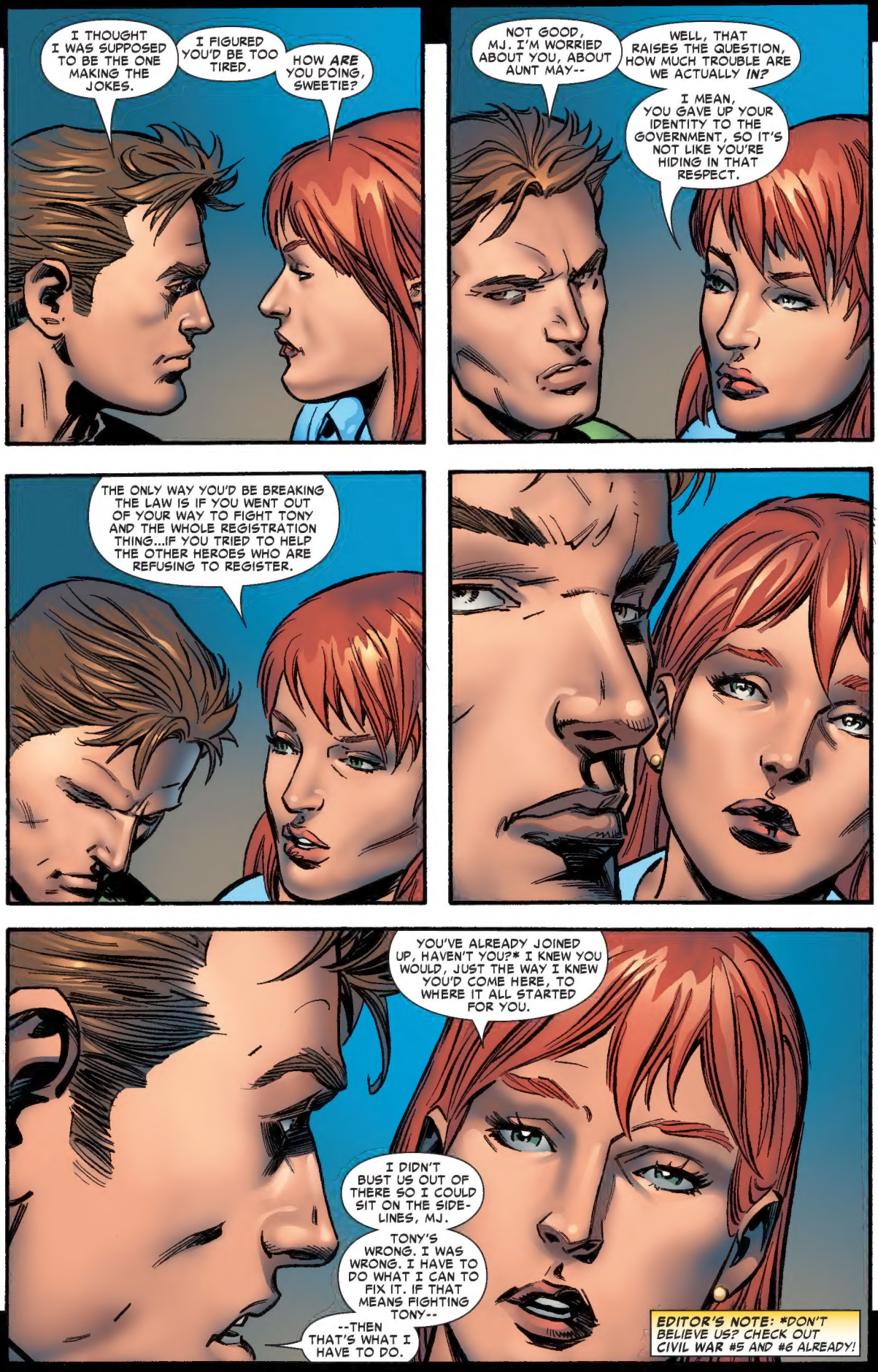
AND IF YOU LIKED THAT, THERE'S EVEN MORE WHERE THAT CAME--
ONE WAY
ATM
EMERGENCY OVER-RIDE, PASSCODE OMEGA OMEGA EPSILON NINE.
I'M A TECHNOCRAT, PETER. AND WHAT KIND OF TECHIE WOULD I BE... TO HAND OVER A SUIT AS POWERFUL AS THAT ONE WITHOUT BUILDING IN SAFEGUARDS TO MAKE SURE IT COULDN'T BE USED AGAINST ME?
CRASH!


FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, PETER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN. YOU'RE REGISTERED NOW. IF YOU'LL COME WITH ME, WE'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT THE DAMAGE YOU'VE JUST--
PASSCODE... SURPRISE!
WHAT WAS THAT, PETER?
I SAID... PASSCODE... SURPRISE!
AND WHAT KIND OF TECHIE WOULD I BE, NOT TO FIGURE OUT YOU'D BUILT IN AN OVERRIDE...
KER-
WHANG!
...BOSS!
SENSORY APPARATUS KNOCKED OFFLINE.
REBOOT.
TARGETING.
NEGATIVE CONTACT ON TARGET. REPEAT--

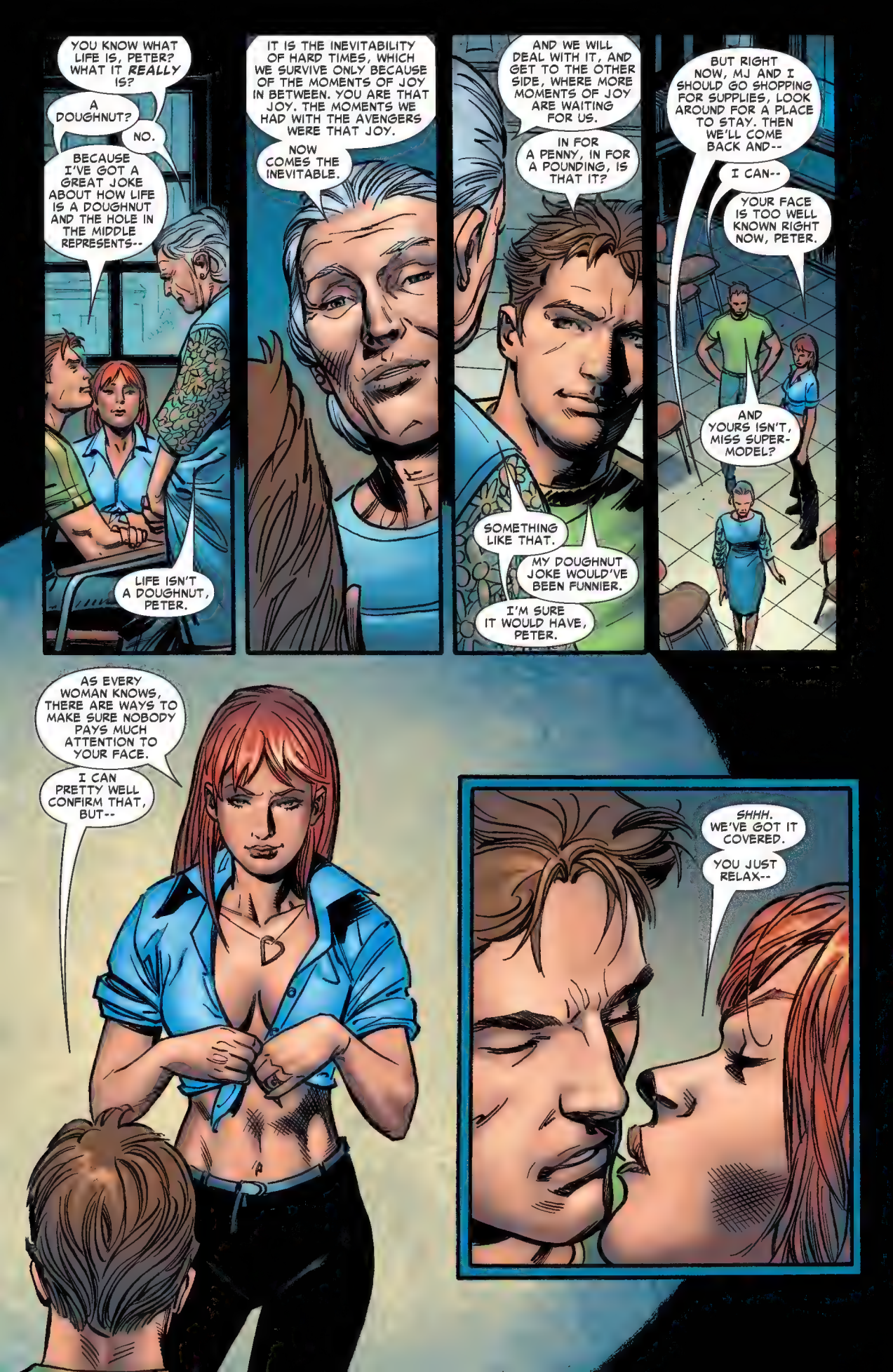

"--NEGATIVE CONTACT ON TARGET."
Right now he's thinking I could've gone in any of four directions. And even if he thinks this might be it, I don't think he'd be willing to come down in close quarters with no room to maneuver.
Not to mention all these gas pipes just waiting for a repulsor blast to go off in his face.
And I don't even want to KNOW what I'm stepping on down here.
Yuuuuuuuuuuuck.
Still, the important thing is that I'm clear, at least for now.
Unfortunately, with the law after me, and with the whole WORLD knowing who I am, the question is--
--WHERE do I go NOW?

SOMETIME LATER...
PS 106
EDITOR'S NOTE: *PICK UP CIVIL WAR #5 AND #6 TO FILL IN THE GAP!
HEY.
HEY.
HOW'S SHE DOING?
EXHAUSTED. WE'VE BEEN ON THE RUN ALL DAY, EVER SINCE--
SHOULD I--
NO, LET HER SLEEP.

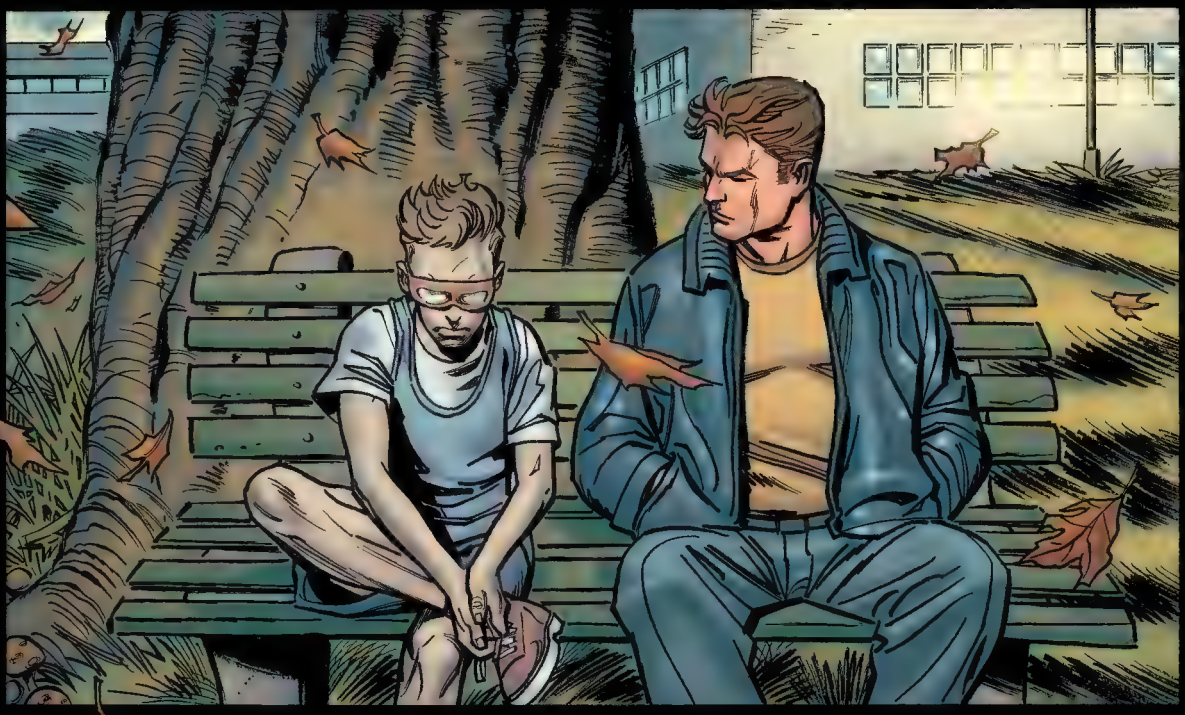
HOW'RE YOU--
THE STATUS REPORT CAN WAIT.
JUST... HOLD ME FOR A MINUTE, OKAY?
FOR A MINUTE? NO WAY. THE REST OF MY LIFE? SURE THING.
I'M SORRY, BABY...I'M SO SORRY.
I KNOW.
CLASSROOM 4B
SO I WENT BY THE BANK AND CLEANED OUT BOTH OUR ACCOUNTS.
IT'S NOT A LOT, BUT IT'LL COVER US FOR A WHILE, AS LONG AS NOTHING DISASTROUS HAPPENS.
YOU MEAN LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.
WELL, THERE GOES MY SENSE OF SECURITY.


I THOUGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE MAKING THE JOKES.
I FIGURED YOU'D BE TOO TIRED.
HOW *ARE* YOU DOING, SWEETIE?
NOT GOOD, MJ. I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, ABOUT AUNT MAY--
WELL, THAT RAISES THE QUESTION, HOW MUCH TROUBLE ARE WE ACTUALLY *IN?*
I MEAN, YOU GAVE UP YOUR IDENTITY TO THE GOVERNMENT, SO IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE HIDING IN THAT RESPECT.
THE ONLY WAY YOU'D BE BREAKING THE LAW IS IF YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO FIGHT TONY AND THE WHOLE REGISTRATION THING...IF YOU TRIED TO HELP THE OTHER HEROES WHO ARE REFUSING TO REGISTER.
YOU'VE ALREADY JOINED UP, HAVEN'T YOU?* I KNEW YOU WOULD, JUST THE WAY I KNEW YOU'D COME HERE, TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED FOR YOU.
I DIDN'T BUST US OUT OF THERE SO I COULD SIT ON THE SIDE-LINES, MJ.
TONY'S WRONG. I WAS WRONG. I HAVE TO DO WHAT I CAN TO FIX IT. IF THAT MEANS FIGHTING TONY--
--THEN THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
*EDITOR'S NOTE: *DON'T BELIEVE US? CHECK OUT CIVIL WAR #5 AND #6 ALREADY!*

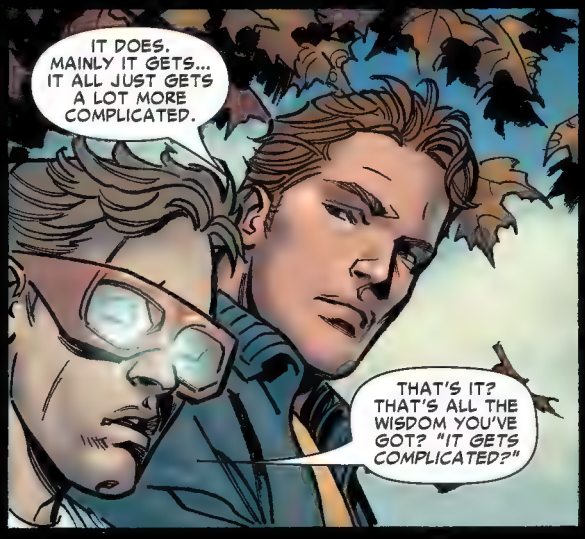
WHICH IS WHY I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF YOU TOOK THAT MONEY AND USED IT TO GET AS FAR FROM HERE AS YOU CAN, JUST UNTIL THINGS CALM DOWN.
PETER--
HEAR ME OUT.
IF YOU STAY, YOU'RE BOTH GOING TO END UP ON THE RUN WITH ME, GOING FROM ONE DIVE TO ANOTHER, USING DIFFERENT NAMES... THE STRESS WILL BE ENORMOUS, ESPECIALLY FOR MAY. AND YOU KNOW HOW I WORRY.
ON MY OWN, KNOWING YOU TWO ARE SOMEWHERE SAFE, I CAN MOVE FASTER, GET MORE DONE. IT'S THE BEST THING FOR BOTH OF YOU, ESPECIALLY MAY.
THIS WHOLE MESS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY, AND MINE ALONE. I HAVE TO--
EXCUSE ME--
--DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD GET A VOTE ON THIS, PETER?
AUNT MAY, I--
I BELIEVE I WAS STILL TALKING.
YES'M.
YOU SAY YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS, AND YOU ARE.
BUT NO MORE SO THAN MJ AND I. YOU WANTED TO LEAVE WHEN THIS WHOLE THING STARTED. WE TALKED YOU OUT OF IT.
IF YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE, SO ARE WE. AND IF WE'RE ALL EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *DECISION*, THEN WE ALL HAVE TO EQUALLY SHARE THE *CONSEQUENCES*.

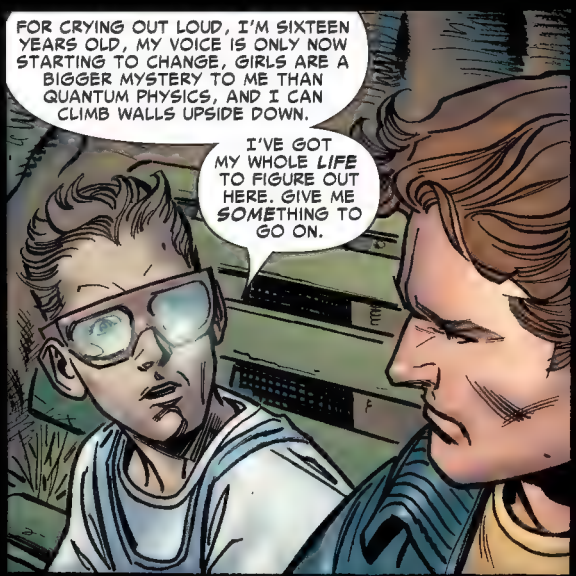

YOU KNOW WHAT LIFE IS, PETER? WHAT IT *REALLY* IS?
A DOUGHNUT?
NO.
BECAUSE I'VE GOT A GREAT JOKE ABOUT HOW LIFE IS A DOUGHNUT AND THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLE REPRESENTS--
LIFE ISN'T A DOUGHNUT, PETER.
IT IS THE INEVITABILITY OF HARD TIMES, WHICH WE SURVIVE ONLY BECAUSE OF THE MOMENTS OF JOY IN BETWEEN. YOU ARE THAT JOY. THE MOMENTS WE HAD WITH THE AVENGERS WERE THAT JOY.
NOW COMES THE INEVITABLE.
AND WE WILL DEAL WITH IT, AND GET TO THE OTHER SIDE, WHERE MORE MOMENTS OF JOY ARE WAITING FOR US.
IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUNDING, IS THAT IT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
MY DOUGHNUT JOKE WOULD'VE BEEN FUNNIER.
I'M SURE IT WOULD HAVE, PETER.
BUT RIGHT NOW, MJ AND I SHOULD GO SHOPPING FOR SUPPLIES, LOOK AROUND FOR A PLACE TO STAY. THEN WE'LL COME BACK AND--
I CAN--
YOUR FACE IS TOO WELL KNOWN RIGHT NOW, PETER.
AND YOURS ISN'T, MISS SUPER-MODEL?
AS EVERY WOMAN KNOWS, THERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE SURE NOBODY PAYS MUCH ATTENTION TO YOUR FACE.
I CAN PRETTY WELL CONFIRM THAT, BUT--
SHHH. WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.
YOU JUST RELAX--

"--AFTER ALL, ISN'T THIS LIKE YOUR SECOND HOME?"
"HEY, PARKER, PAY ATTENTION!"
YEAH, GET THE BALL! GET THE BALL!
I'VE GOT IT!
NO! PARKER, YOU LOSER!
FWWWEEEEET!
OKAY, THAT'S IT. SKINS WIN, SHIRTS TAKE TWO LAPS AROUND THE FIELD.
COME ON.
OH, MAN--
JUST A SEC, I GOTTA TIE MY SHOES.



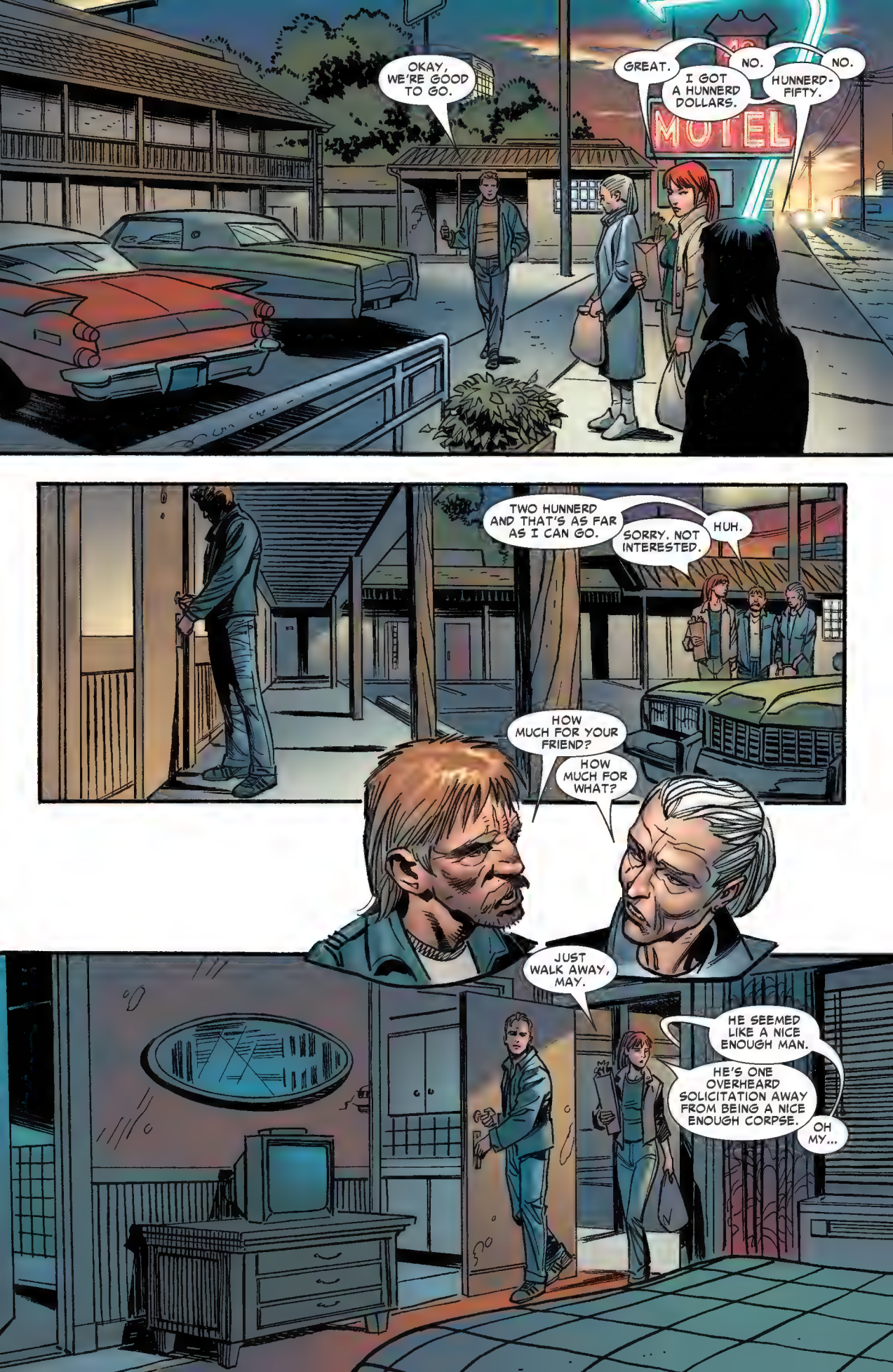
TELL ME THIS GETS EASIER. TELL ME THAT AS I GET OLDER ALL THIS IS GOING TO CHANGE.


IT DOES. MAINLY IT GETS... IT ALL JUST GETS A LOT MORE COMPLICATED.
THAT'S IT? THAT'S ALL THE WISDOM YOU'VE GOT? "IT GETS COMPLICATED?"


FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, I'M SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, MY VOICE IS ONLY NOW STARTING TO CHANGE, GIRLS ARE A BIGGER MYSTERY TO ME THAN QUANTUM PHYSICS, AND I CAN CLIMB WALLS UPSIDE DOWN.
I'VE GOT MY WHOLE *LIFE* TO FIGURE OUT HERE. GIVE ME *SOME*THING TO GO ON.

I GUESS IF THERE'S ANYTHING I COULD SAY... ANYTHING THAT WOULD *MEAN* ANYTHING...IT WOULD BE--
--USE SUNSCREEN. DON'T SMOKE. EAT YOUR VEGETABLES. PROTECT YOUR FRIENDS.
AND SAVOR IT. SAVOR IT *ALL*. THE GOOD TIMES AND THE BAD. BECAUSE EVEN WITH THE BAD TIMES, PEOPLE LOVE YOU, AND YOU'RE ALIVE.
AND BEING ALIVE... IS AMAZING.
THAT'S IT?
LOOK, I--
SUNSCREEN?
I DIDN'T EXACTLY PLAN TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION, YOU KNOW. IT'S ALL THAT CAME TO MIND.
WELL, I GUESS IT BEATS SAYING LIFE IS LIKE A DOUGHNUT OR SOMETHING. I MEAN, THAT WOULD BE *REALLY* STUPID.
THANKS.
LOOK, IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, I CAN *TELL* YOU WHAT LIFE IS, REALLY, BECAUSE I JUST HEARD IT MYSELF.
DO YOU *WANT* TO KNOW WHAT LIFE IS, *REALLY?*
NO, I THINK I'D RATHER NOT KNOW.
YEAH. ME NEITHER.

SO I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE'LL NEED THE ROOM, BUT--
MOTEL
WEEKEND RATES
HEY, WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT, PAL. IT'S THREE HUNDRED FOR THE WEEK, FIFTY FOR THE DAY, SIXTY FOR THE HOUR.
WAIT... WHY IS IT MORE FOR THE HOUR THAN BY THE--
NEVER MIND. I'LL PAY FOR THE WEEK, IN ADVANCE. IS CASH OKAY?
YOU KIDDING? CASH IS ALL I GET. MAKES LIFE SIMPLER THAT WAY, Y'KNOW?
YOU GET BORED ANYTIME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME, SWEETS.
BORED IS NEVER A PROBLEM.
JUST SAYIN'.

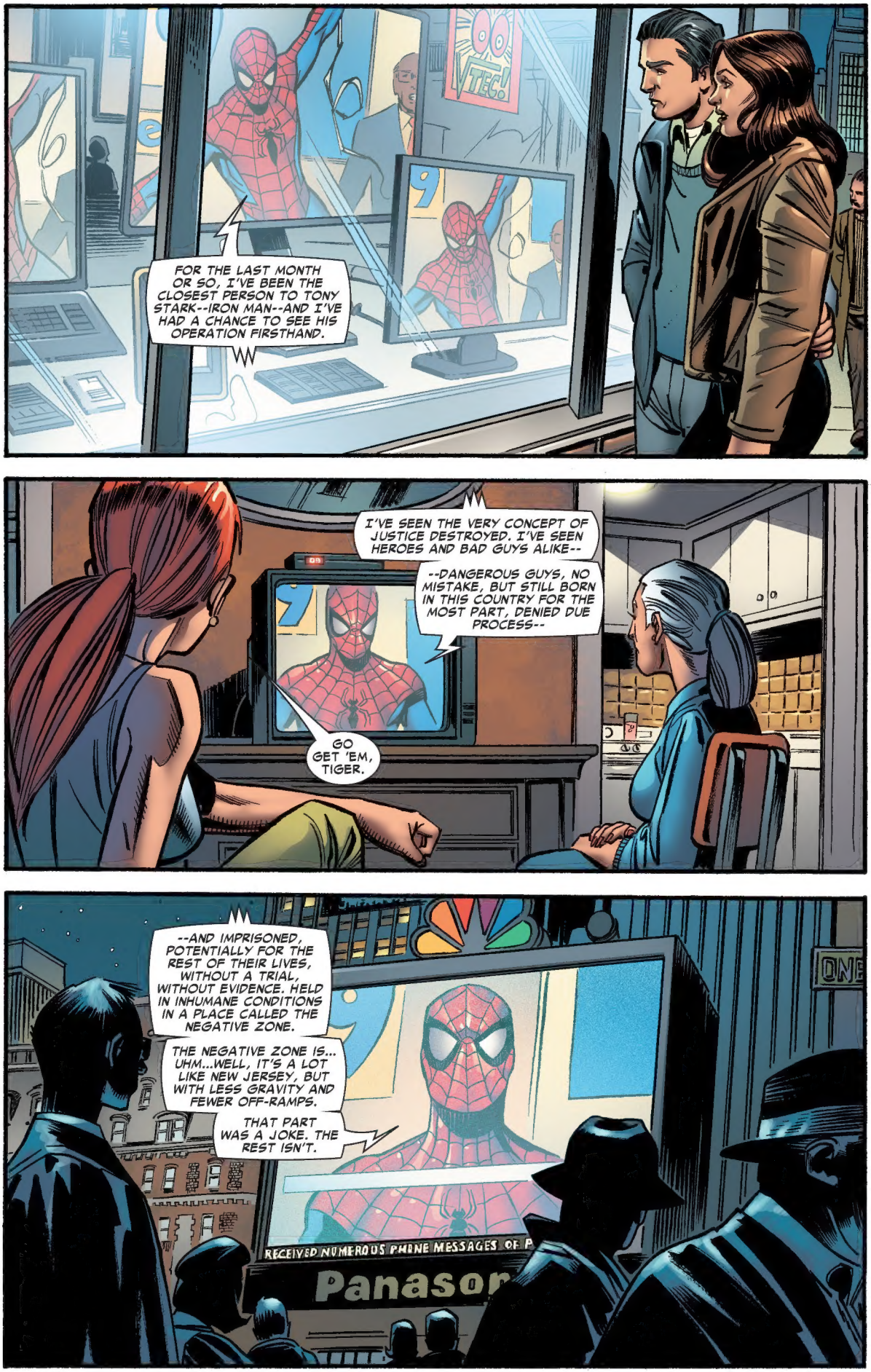

OKAY, WE'RE GOOD TO GO.
GREAT.
I GOT A HUNNERD DOLLARS.
NO.
HUNNERD-FIFTY.
NO.
MOTEL
TWO HUNNERD AND THAT'S AS FAR AS I CAN GO.
SORRY. NOT INTERESTED.
HUH.
HOW MUCH FOR YOUR FRIEND?
HOW MUCH FOR WHAT?
JUST WALK AWAY, MAY.
HE SEEMED LIKE A NICE ENOUGH MAN.
HE'S ONE OVERHEARD SOLICITATION AWAY FROM BEING A NICE ENOUGH CORPSE.
OH MY...

GRANTED, IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT I CALL IT--
--WELL, I CALL IT NOT MUCH. IT'S NO STARK TOWER, THAT'S FOR SURE.
IT'S FINE, PETER.
MAY, IF YOU COULD GIVE ME A HAND--
OF COURSE.
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE MOVING?
NO.
OH.
WHACK!
WHO IS THAT GUY AND WHY IS HE JUST STANDING THERE?
I GOT TWO HUNNERD...
SPEAKING OF STARK TOWER, WE WERE RATHER IN A HURRY TO LEAVE, BUT ON THE WAY OUT I DID MANAGE TO GRAB THIS.
THE SILVERWARE? BECAUSE WE COULD GET SOME SERIOUS CASH FOR IT RIGHT NOW.
NO. SOMETHING BETTER.

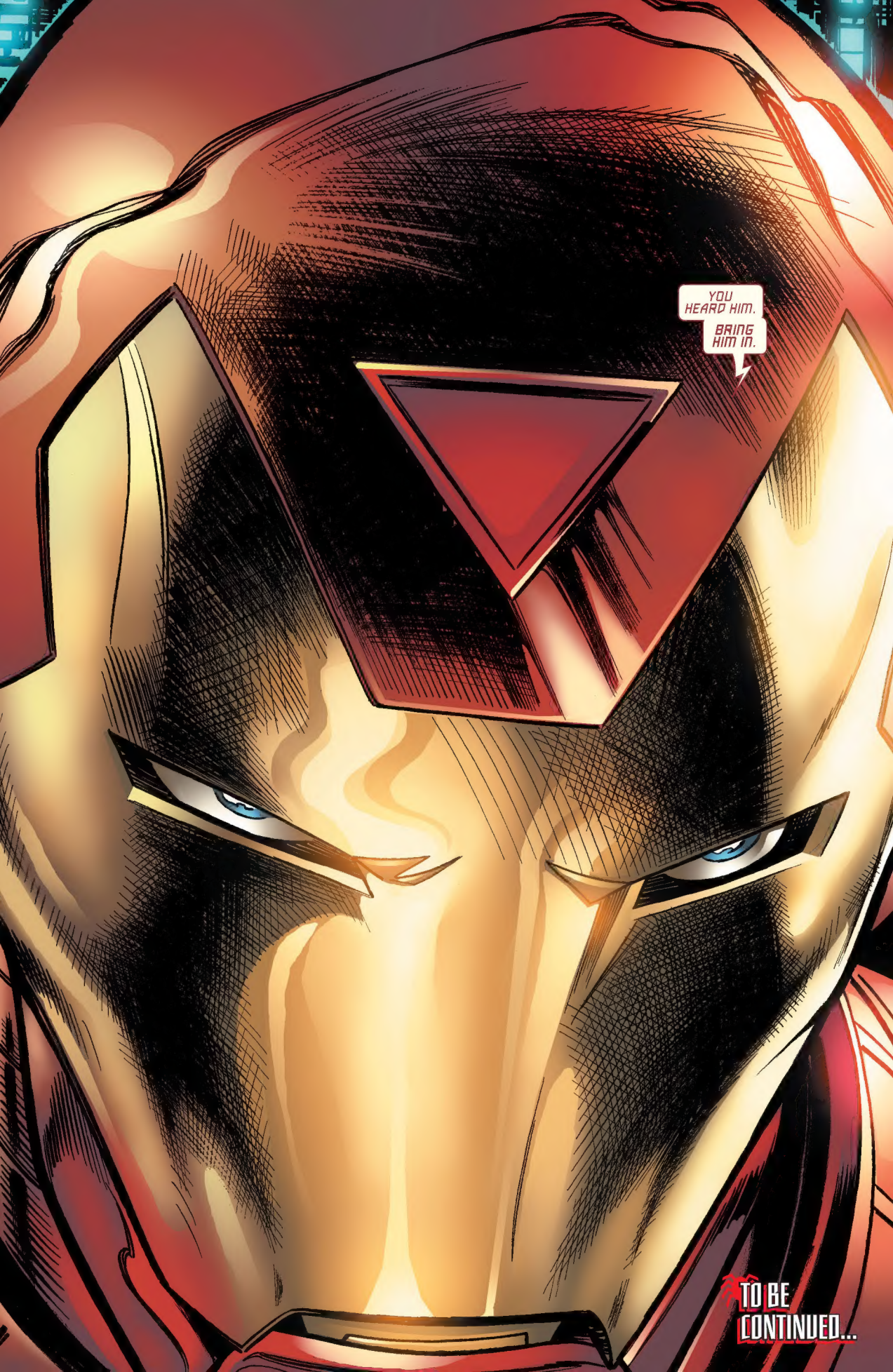
I KNEW YOU HAD SECURITY CONCERNS WITH THE OTHER ONE, SO I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO, AS THE KIDS SAY--
--DITCH THE THREADS.
YEAH. DITCH THE THREADS. AS THE KIDS SAY.
WITH THEIR DUCK-TAIL HAIRCUTS, POODLE SKIRTS AND HULA-HOOPS.
I'LL JUST BE A MINUTE.
TWO-FIFTY, BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS I CAN GO.
OH, LOOK, MJ, HE'S FOUND A NEW FRIEND.
THAT CAN'T *POSSIBLY* BE HER REAL HAIR, CAN IT?
MAY, YOU COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING REAL THERE WITH A HUNTING DOG AND A OUIJA BOARD.
ALL RIGHT THEN...
...AS THE KIDS SAY...LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED.

Okay, question one, same as before.
Where do I go?
Tony's going to be looking for me.
So I guess the first thing I need to do...is to pick a fight...and clarify a few things--

--having learned from Tony the best way to do that...the way that got me in all this trouble in the first place.
--HAD TO BE THE FUNNIEST FOOTAGE I'VE EVER SEEN OF A DANCING CAT, DON'T YOU AGREE, MARGIE?
ABSOLUTELY, MAX. NOW, BOB...ARE WE GOING TO SEE CONTINUED SUNSHINE, OR ARE YOU GOING TO RAIN ON OUR PARADE?
RAIN
Heavy
Light
MIX/ICE
Heavy
81
95
New York
Trenton
HARD TO SAY, MARGIE, BUT IF I WERE YOU, I'D PACK AN UMBRELLA. BECAUSE IF I READ THE SIGNS CORRECTLY--
--THERE'S A BIG STORM COMING RIGHT HERE, IT'S--
BOB... HANG ON.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL BULLETIN ON OUR HANDS.
UHM... YEAH...SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HELLO, PEOPLE OF NEW YORK. I'VE--
--WELL, I'VE GOT A CONFESSION TO MAKE.
I WAS WRONG. I MADE A MISTAKE.


FOR THE LAST MONTH OR SO, I'VE BEEN THE CLOSEST PERSON TO TONY STARK--IRON MAN--AND I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO SEE HIS OPERATION FIRSTHAND.
I'VE SEEN THE VERY CONCEPT OF JUSTICE DESTROYED. I'VE SEEN HEROES AND BAD GUYS ALIKE--
--DANGEROUS GUYS, NO MISTAKE, BUT STILL BORN IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE MOST PART, DENIED DUE PROCESS--
GO GET 'EM, TIGER.
--AND IMPRISONED, POTENTIALLY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, WITHOUT A TRIAL, WITHOUT EVIDENCE. HELD IN INHUMANE CONDITIONS IN A PLACE CALLED THE NEGATIVE ZONE.
THE NEGATIVE ZONE IS... UHM...WELL, IT'S A LOT LIKE NEW JERSEY, BUT WITH LESS GRAVITY AND FEWER OFF-RAMPS.
THAT PART WAS A JOKE. THE REST ISN'T.
RECEIVED NUMEROUS PHONE MESSAGES OF P
Panasor

WE ALL WANT TO BE SAFE. WE ALL WANT TO KNOW WE CAN GO TO BED AT NIGHT AND HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF WAKING UP WITHOUT SOMEBODY IN A COSTUME BLOWING UP THE BUILDING.
BUT THERE'S A POINT WHERE THE END DOESN'T JUSTIFY THE MEANS, IF THE MEANS REQUIRE US TO GIVE UP NOT JUST OUR IDENTITIES, BUT WHO AND WHAT WE ARE AS A COUNTRY.
THE QUESTION ISN'T WHAT DOES A COUNTRY STAND FOR WHEN THINGS ARE EASY. THE QUESTION IS--
--WHAT DOES A COUNTRY STAND FOR WHEN STANDING IS THE HARDEST?
WHEN DOES THE COUNTRY WE'RE LIVING IN STOP BEING THE COUNTRY WE WERE BORN IN?
SOME PEOPLE SAY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD IS THAT WE SHOULD BE SAFE.
BUT I WAS BROUGHT UP TO BELIEVE THAT SOME THINGS ARE WORTH DYING FOR.
IF THE COST OF SILENCE IS THE SOUL OF THE COUNTRY...IF THE COST OF TACIT SUPPORT IS THAT WE LOSE THE VERY THINGS THAT MAKE THIS NATION THE GREATEST IN HUMAN HISTORY--
--THEN THE PRICE IS TOO HIGH.
I CANNOT, IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE REGISTRATION ACT AS IT HAS BEEN CREATED AND ENFORCED.
I WAS WRONG. AND FROM THIS DAY ON, I WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO OPPOSE THE ACT AND ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO INTIMIDATE AND ARREST THOSE WHO ALSO OPPOSE THE ACT, IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.
AND I GUESS... THAT'S...ALL I WANTED TO SAY.


YOU HEARD HIM.
BRING HIM IN.
TO BE CONTINUED...